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UTAH GETS FIRST APPROVED DINGELL-JOHNSON PROJECT

The State of Utah, which submitted the first project for approval under the terms of the new Dingell-Johnson Act granting Federal aid to the sport fisheries of the country, has succeeded in duplicating its previous record of being the State to have the first project submitted and approved when the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program went into effect in 1938, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

Utah's fishery project was received by the Fish and Wildlife Service on August 9, 1950, the same day President Truman signed the Dingell-Johnson bill, H. R. 6533, into law. The approval of this project, however, has been held up pending the final passage and signing of the Department of the Interior's appropriation bill for fiscal year 1952 which authorized the apportionment of funds to the States for this new activity. A special ceremony in the office of Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the signing of the Utah project.

In its first project, Utah will seek data on how much public use is made of the waters of the State. These data can then be used to show the need for modification of fishing regulations and the inauguration of management measures, such as habitat improvement, in order to offer the best possible fishing and at the same time afford the proper protection to this natural resource. Opportunities for future development will be sought and the data obtained from field surveys will be used as a basis for developmental projects.

Utah, like many States, as Director Day pointed out, also wants to obtain more specific data about its fishery resources in order to manage them better in the interest of improving sport fishing. One of the first things Utah proposes to find out is the extent of the fish harvest taken by anglers, and the economic value of sport fishing to the welfare of the State. Although it is well known that supplying gasoline, boats, motors, tackle, bait, and guide service to fishermen has become a sizeable business, Utah intends to find out the exact amount and its impact on the State's economy.

The personal interview method, combined with questionnaire cards will be used in the study. Utah expects to send its fishing program forward with the assistance of the Dingell-Johnson funds now available to it. The State's first project was submitted by J. Perry Egan, Director of the Utah Fish and Game Commission, and prepared by R. L. Turpin, Federal Aid Coordinator, and M. J. Madsen, Utah's Superintendent of Fisheries.

Funds available under the Dingell-Johnson program are derived from the excise tax on sport fishing equipment such as rods and reels, artificial lures and fish creels. For each \$3 allotted through the Federal Government the State must contribute \$1 of its own funds. The Fish and Wildlife Service, through its Branch of Federal Aid, administers the program which includes the apportionment of available money to the States and the review and approval of each project to insure that it meets the standards set by Congress and the Secretary of the Interior. The Service also administers the outstandingly successful Pittman-Robertson wildlife restoration program which has been operating since July 1, 1938.

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